



USAID
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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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USAID Newsletter

Economic Development



U.S. and Kyrgyz Governments Hand Over Agricultural Machinery to Seed Farms in the Kyrgyz Republic: On August 28, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ms. Laura Griesmer, USAID Representative Mr. Carey Gordon, former Prime Minister Mr. Omurbeck Babanov, and former Minister of Agriculture Mr. Askarbek Djanybekov handed over agricultural equipment to 14 selected seed farms from all seven provinces of the Kyrgyz Republic as part of the Economic Development Fund Program. The \$7.4 million program will help to ensure a sustainable seed industry in the country. The participating seed farms will help meet domestic market needs for high quality seed and will expand opportunities for export to regional

and international markets. Under the program, 94 pieces of agricultural machinery, including 14 tractors, 11 ploughs, 5 disks, 7 internal cultivators, 9 fertilizer spreaders, 12 drills, 12 combine harvesters, 5 potato harvesting machines and 11 seed cleaners will be delivered to seed farms throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. The program was jointly designed by the U.S. Government and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and will be jointly implemented by USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture.



Photo 1: U.S. and Kyrgyz Government officials at the opening ceremony.

Photo2: U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Laura Griesmer and USAID Representative Mr. Carey Gordon.

USAID Supports Tourism Development in the Kyrgyz Republic: The USAID Local Development Program supported the VII International Festival Oimo (design) 2012 held between July 24th and August 6 in Bishkek and Cholpon Ata. The annual Oimo Festival is an important cultural event that contributes to the advancement of tourism in the Kyrgyz Republic by promoting regional crafts and folk traditions. Each year the festival brings together master-craftsmen from Kyrgyzstan and the region and includes crafts, fashion shows, concerts, and showings of Central Asian films, arts and crafts master-classes, round-table discussions on the development of handicrafts, and traditional culture.



Photo: Craftsmen from Kyrgyzstan and the region displaying their handiwork.

Health and Education

The U.S. Government Continues the Fight Against AIDS: On July 19, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Peace Corps conducted the Fourth President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Consultative Meeting in the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting strengthened collaboration among the United States, Kyrgyz Ministry of Health, the Global Fund, and other key partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Kyrgyzstan, to identify and discuss overlapping activities and create a plan for better coordination and reduction of duplication. The interagency USG PEPFAR team also presented a set of proposed interventions for the period between October 2012 and September 2013, including increasing access to services for the most at-risk populations; improving the quality, content, and use of data to guide programming and monitor results; and improving capacity of governmental and nongovernmental partners to plan, manage, implement, and monitor HIV/AIDS programs.



USAID Supports the Summer School of Democracy 2012: On August 22, USAID Representative Carey Gordon together with UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Erkin Kasybekov, and Director of the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan Shamil Ibragimov officially opened the Summer School of Democracy 2012 “Civic Education”, a part of the Jasa.kg program implemented by the International Youth Foundation with financial support from USAID and in partnership with the European Union, the United Nations and the Soros Foundation of Kyrgyzstan. The Summer School of Democracy promotes civic education and youth leadership development. The young

participants presented their developed social projects at an Ideas Fair that took place on the last day of the seminar. The top projects were given grants from the Youth Action Fund. After graduation, the 28 participants will provide mentorship support to over 40 vulnerable youth for a six month period. For more information about the Jasa.kg program of the International Youth Foundation, please visit: <http://www.facebook.com/jasa.kg>.



Photo1: USAID Representative Carey Gordon (in the center) UNDP Deputy Representative Erkin Kasybekov (to the right), and Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan Director Shamil Ibragimov (left) with Summer School of Democracy 2012 participants.

Parliamentary Study Tour to US: The USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program sponsored a Study Tour for two Vice Speakers of the Kyrgyz Parliament and four Parliamentarians in August 2012. They attended the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Legislative Summit held in Chicago. They also had the opportunity to visit the Iowa State General Assembly (legislature). During the study tour, participants engaged with Iowan counterparts in a variety of legislative activities including bill drafting, committee work and legislative services, oversight, constituent relations, parliamentary management, human resources management, inter-relations with other branches of government, and fiscal and budget

analysis. The group also participated in meetings with numerous elected state legislators and legislative staff; the Governor of Iowa; and the Secretary of Agriculture for Iowa (an elected position) as well as visiting the Des Moines office of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin and the veterinary school at Iowa State University. The tour participants said they plan to amend the Parliament's Rules of Procedures to incorporate the types of practices mentioned above.



Photo 1: Study Tour participants are at the Legislative Summit in Chicago. Photo 2: MPs visiting Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad.



Youth Theater for Peace as a Model for Ministry of Education and Donors:

The “Youth Theater for Peace” program uses an arts-based conflict mitigation approach to advance sustainable peace promotion at the community level by encouraging changes in attitudes and behavior among young people. The program was initially implemented in 2010 in schools in the Ferghana Valley and in new neighborhoods in the capital city Bishkek. The Ministry of Education has begun to integrate this successful program into the national school curriculum by using interactive activities to address social problems such as bullying, alcoholism, ethnic tensions, and trafficking. The program will expand to the more remote regions of the country. To complement the efforts of USAID, UNICEF is now using the Theater for Peace methodology to implement a similar program in Osh and Jalal-Abad, the two largest cities in the south of Kyrgyzstan, which were sites of the June 2010 ethnic fighting.

Photo 1: student actors in roles.

For more information about USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic contact:

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